

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 11 have been amended. Claims 12 to 19 are added. Claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are currently pending. There are now 6 independent claims, authorization to charge Account number 03-0075 for the additional claims is given herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2-9 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, noting that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten to include the text of Claim 1 as last presented. It is considered that the amendments herein render moot the objections to Claims 2-9.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 10 and 11 under 35 USC §102(b) by French patent publication number FR 2158668 (FR '688).

FR '688 discloses a switching valve to control flow between a preferred compressor 5 and a backup compressor 6. The backup compressor 6 comes online when the preferred compressor 5 is at zero pressure (see line 22 to 27, page 3 of translation) and so the first pressure is not always higher than the second pressure at the respective inlets. Moreover, the valve member 11 is not arranged to move due to an increase in pressure at both the inlet ports 5, 6, as

is required in the claims.

Claim 1 states: “said first valve member being operable to move initially in response to an increase in pressure at both said first and second inlet ports.” Because FR ‘688 does not disclose or suggest a first valve member operable to move in response to an increase in pressure at both first and second inlet ports, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over FR ‘688. New Claims 12 – 14, 16 and 17 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Claim 10 has been cancelled, rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claim 11 requires that one or both of the seating surfaces comprise slots. There is no such teaching or suggestion in FR’688, which provides simple drilled holes (Fig. 2, ref. 18.) Therefore, the Claim 11 is believed to be allowable over FR ‘688.

New Claim 15 requires a gas turbine engine. There is no such disclosure or suggestion in FR’688. Moreover, Claim 15 requires that the valve member is movable in respect to an increase of pressure at both inlets. No such thing is disclosed or foreshadowed in FR’688. Therefore, the Claim 11 is believed to be allowable over FR ‘688.

Claim 18 recites the features from Claim 1 and is believed to be similarly allowable over FR’688.

Claim 19 requires, *inter alia*, a pair of bearing surfaces. No such bearing surfaces are discussed or hinted at in FR’688 and so for at least that reason, at least, Claim 19 is believed to be allowable patentable over FR’688.

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Conclusion

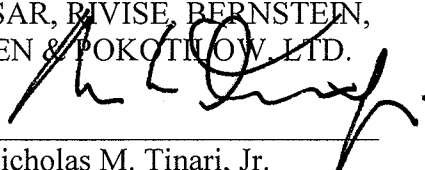
In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome, and that the application, including Claims 1-9 and 11-19 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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